

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Children may ask about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and why we celebrate his life. Dr. King was a Baptist minister, activist, and humanitarian, and he is best known as a leader of the civil rights movement. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 at the age of 35, and he is the only non-president celebrated by a national holiday. When discussing why we celebrate a day in his honor, here are three of Dr. King's core teachings to consider:

- **Equality:** Dr. King advocated for the equal treatment of all people regardless of who they are or what they look like.
- **Non-Violence:** Dr. King believed in peaceful and non-violent protest, and he applied those principles to his leadership within the civil rights movement.
- **Service:** Dr. King was passionate about service to one's community, and it is in honor of this belief that the national MLK Day of Service was started.

## The Birthday Giving Project

GTMS is proud to participate in the MLK Day of Service through the creation of birthday boxes for children living in homeless shelters. Each family will make a box that includes everything a parent needs to throw their child a birthday party -- cake mix, icing, candles, decoration, a small gift, a book, and a card made by our students. Once completed, the boxes will be delivered to the Woodstock Family Center, a local shelter.

## Further Reading for Kids about Dr. King, Equality and Social Justice:

Toddler / Primary	Primary / Kindergarten
<i>A is for Activist</i> , Innosanto Nagara	<i>Martin's Big Words</i> , Doreen Rappaport
<i>The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet</i> , Carmen Agra Deedy,	<i>The Youngest Marcher</i> , Cynthia Levinson
<i>If You Plant a Seed</i> , Kadir Nelson	<i>A Sweet Smell of Roses</i> , Angela Johnson,
<i>The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade</i> , Justin Roberts	<i>I Have a Dream</i> , Kadir Nelson
<i>Whoever You Are</i> , Mem Fox	<i>We March</i> , Shane W. Evans
<i>I am Martin Luther King, Jr.</i> Brad Meltzer	<i>National Geographic Readers: Martin Luther King Jr.</i> Kitson Jazyanka
<i>The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.</i> Johnny Ray Moore	

## Further Reading and Listening for Parents:

See <https://socialjusticebooks.org> for a broader selection of books on social justice topics.

See <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children> for a podcast about discussing the concepts of race and social justice with young children.

**Philadelphia based activities taking place on MLK Jr. Day (2023)**

Museum of the American Revolution

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/events/martin-luther-king-jr-weekend-2023-at-the-museum>

African American Museum

Free admission on MLK Jr Day

<https://www.aampmuseum.org/>

MLK weekend activities at Please Touch Museum

<https://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org/site-news/mlk-weekend-activities-at-the-museum/>